



## The European Lotteries and the European Disability Forum Cooperation agreement

### Preamble

Whereas The European Lotteries (EL) is the umbrella organisation of national lotteries operating games of chance for the public benefit, with members from 40 European countries including all 27 EU Member States,

Whereas the European Disability Forum (EDF) is the representative umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities in the European Union, representing the interests of 80 million disabled people in the EU and standing for their rights,

Having regard to the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, signed by all EU countries, which states that disability is a human rights issue,

Recalling that EL's members in the EU contribute more than 20 billion EUR per year to the state budgets and the funding of causes of general interest and play an important role in contributing to the full integration of disabled persons through direct and indirect employment, facilitation of integration in the workplace and in society in general, funding from revenue from lotteries through the state and foundation budgets and direct sponsorship and awareness-raising activities, as well as other actions,

Recalling that EL and EDF both hold 'solidarity' as an essential value,

Noting that the commitments outlined in this cooperation agreement will have to be relayed by both associations to their members at the national level,

Acknowledging that organisations of people with disabilities at national level have a fundamental role in order to the enhance social approach to disability and to advance in the recognition of equal rights and full social inclusion for people with disabilities,

Noting the importance of involving organisations of people with a disability in decisions affecting them,



Stressing that national lotteries in the European Union operate in different national contexts and are governed by different regulatory frameworks under which the individual lotteries may have a scope for action concerning specific aspects in the different areas outlined here,

Stressing their respect for the principle of subsidiarity whereby gambling policy must be based on national authorisation systems,

Noting that EL and EDF will commit themselves to contact their members in order to urge them to conclude national cooperation agreements in the areas of cooperation foreseen here,

The European Lotteries and the European Disability Forum, committed to advance with the aims and goals of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, agree to the following areas of cooperation

#### *1. Contribution to the employment of disabled persons*

EL commits itself to encourage its members to take measures to raise the employment rate of disabled persons, within the lotteries themselves as well as within the lottery retailers and through the lotteries' procurement.

EL will further encourage its members to aid the employment of disabled persons in places of employment not directly related to the individual lotteries, for example by contributing to the establishment of regional cooperation agreements with all social partners or by funding the development of tools that will facilitate the integration into the workplace.

EDF's members will advise EL's members at the national level on how to raise the employment of disabled persons by proposing concrete actions, tailored to the individual lottery and its scope for action.



## *2. Contribution to full integration of disabled persons in society outside of employment*

EL will encourage its members to take concrete actions for the full integration of disabled persons in the fields in which they are active, such as the integration through sport (sponsoring for example Paralympics).

EDF commits itself to encourage its members to advise EL's members on how best to achieve this goal, taking note of the actions of the individual lotteries already taken in this field.

## *3. Awareness raising*

EL will encourage its members to promote the member associations of EDF and their awareness campaigns. While EL notes that the implementation will have to take place at the national levels in accordance with the different national contexts and possibilities of each member lottery, examples are active promotion of EDF member organisations through visible sponsoring and dissemination of communication material from EDF members through lottery retailers.

EDF members will advise the national lotteries on how best to advance EDF members' activities and priorities.

## *4. Dissemination of best practices*

EL and EDF both commit to encourage their members to share best practices and facilitate the exchange between the organisations (such as foundations) that they are in regular cooperation with.

Following the successful example of some of its members, EL commits itself to encourage its members to investigate whether lottery employees can dedicate parts of their time to volunteer for activities for the benefit of disabled persons.

EDF commits itself to encourage its members to advise EL's member lotteries for such activity.



In order to develop concrete actions aiming at implementing this general cooperation agreement in the areas mentioned above, EL and EDF commit themselves to implement the following actions in 2011:

- Organise a first meeting between some of their members in 2011. This meeting will aim at discussing the ways in which the individual members of EL, depending on the national context in which they operate, can and/or do contribute to the improvement of levels of employment and social inclusion of people with disabilities, through concrete actions and through direct and indirect contributions, like for example, to name but a few, support to the associations of disabled people, contributing to the accessibility of infrastructure for disabled persons, supporting sport for disabled people.
- Create a website to disseminate best practices from national lotteries aiming at improving the situation of disabled people in Europe.

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The European Lotteries and the European Disability Forum will facilitate the coordination of their members at the national level to advance these commitments.

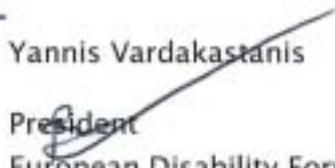
EL and EDF both commit themselves to an evaluation of this cooperation agreement and the actions taken by both organisations and their members implement it one year following the signature.

*Signed in Brussels on 13 April 2011*

  
Friedrich Stickler

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The European Lotteries

  
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